

Q+A – This hand out was prepared for distribution at Public Meeting held at Holiday Inn, Sunday 2nd August 2015. Questions are from Protect Rotorua and responses from Regional Council.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council staff invites landowners to discuss how the rules may affect them. Email info@rotorualakes.co.nz or phone 0800 884 880.

Question	Response
Will under 10 ha properties be required to complete annual returns of land management, stock numbers?	<p>If you are under 10 hectares you don't need to do anything, e.g. get a consent or provide records, provided you comply with the stocking intensity tables circulating at this meeting or available by contacting the Regional Council on 0800 884 880. If you are unsure please contact the Regional Council.</p> <p>If you exceed the stocking rate tables then you will be required to submit information up to 2022 when a consent would be required.</p>
Will under 10 ha properties be monitored?	For the rules to work, then monitoring will have to be undertaken to make sure that everyone is doing their bit and that a sustainable amount of nitrogen is entering the lake.
Is the Advice and Support team advising and supporting on a philosophy of "doing what we're doing better", or are they engaging in looking "outside the box" into advancing technologies, supporting traditional land management in today's world, investigating alternative systems like the variety we heard about at the Opportunities Symposium?	<p>The purpose of Advice & Support is to support landowners in reaching their NDA by developing a Nitrogen Management Plan. The Business Support service part enables them to investigate alternative land uses where they cannot meet their nitrogen discharge allowance through system changes, i.e. they require land use change.</p> <p>There is also a \$3.3 million dollar fund to which expressions of interest will be called for shortly. This will enable people who have innovative ideas for low nitrogen land use in the Lake Rotorua catchment to apply for funding to pursue them. If you would like more information about this fund contact the Regional Council. The \$40 million Incentives Scheme provides an opportunity for landowners to free up capital to pursue these alternatives.</p>
How can all the different sectors (e.g. Consumers, businesses, urban dwellers, tourist industry, rural land owners, conservation, educators, etc.) come together for integrated solutions? Who can facilitate this?	<p>All parts of the community are responsible for reaching the target. Currently the Rotorua City sewage discharges to the Whakarewarewa Forest, from that application about 30 T nitrogen reaches the lake.</p> <p>In comparison, pastoral land use is contributing more than 500 T nitrogen annually to the lake. In 1990 the Rotorua Lakes Council commissioned an advanced treatment plant and land disposal area designed at reducing nutrient discharges to the lake. So far this has been the single most significant action to reduce nutrients reaching the lake. At that time the nitrogen load from sewage reaching the lake reduced by about 150 T. In 2013 Rotorua Lakes Council commissioned</p>

	<p>an additional treatment plant that addresses nitrogen discharge, to ensure that they can comply with their 30 T nitrogen target.</p> <p>All lakeside properties which aren't connected to reticulation (and are less than 2 hectares) are also required to ensure they have septic tank systems which minimise impacts on the lake.</p>
<p>Can our policy planners and authorities think differently to accommodate community driven input early in their processes instead of delivering a politically prepared plan for community to comment on?</p>	<p>The 435 T nitrogen target comes from research work done by NIWA in the 1980s. At that time water quality was clearly deteriorating and sewage inputs had increased significantly. The community had identified the water quality from the 1960s as the desirable long term target. The 435t nitrogen equates to the nitrogen input that would achieve the long term lake water quality target identified by the community. This number has been supported more recently by University of Waikato lake modelling that tested a range of nitrogen input scenarios.</p> <p>The Regional Council has been working with Lake Rotorua Stakeholder Advisory Group (StAG) for nearly three years to establish a sustainable water quality solution for Lake Rotorua. StAG has worked to inform Council decisions on the solution for Lake Rotorua, including the Integrated Framework approach (Rules, Gorse and Incentives), which spreads the cost of the solution between the ratepayer, taxpayer and landowners. StAG has also played a critical role in informing the content of the new rules and how they will work. Council has also included additional consultation and notification processes (above legal requirements) to make sure it gets the rules right. In addition the Regional Council has made a significant investment in water quality science for the lakes to underpin the rules. For these reasons, Council is confident that a rules framework including a nitrogen discharge allowance for properties will be part of the long term water quality solution for Lake Rotorua.</p>
<p>Why should the lifestyle block owners in this catchment subsidize the continued application of appalling farming management practice by an industry that produces a low value commodity that can be stockpiled and thus expose our nation's economy to instability</p>	<p>The water quality solution for Lake Rotorua is based on everyone doing their bit.</p>
<p>My 50 acre block has large dairy farms on either side. I invested a large sum in fencing and farm infrastructure to set it up as a red deer stud. EBOP says my neighbour's can continue their business activities as per the past but I can't. Why shouldn't I get compensation?</p>	<p>The water quality solution for Lake Rotorua is based on everyone doing their bit. The neighbouring dairy farms will also need to meet a nitrogen discharge allowance and make changes on their property just as you are.</p>
<p>If I am going to be affected, why wasn't I consulted and received a notice saying that I wasn't going to be</p>	<p>If you would like more information on how the rules specifically will affect you please contact</p>

affected?	the Regional Council. Draft rules were publically notified in September last year and all affected landowners were notified, along with public meetings and public notices.
What happens to those farms that didn't comply with Rule 11 and have been leaching in excess of their Rule 11 NDA? Will there be a penalty? Should they be eligible for part of that \$40 million if they didn't comply with Rule 11 why should they should they be able to comply now and be rewarded?	<p>The new Nitrogen Discharge Allowance rules will supersede Rule 11 once they are operative. If any member of the public believes they are aware of a property that hasn't complied with Rule 11 they are encouraged to contact the Regional Council to provide details and follow up will be undertaken.</p> <p>The nitrogen discharge allowances to be included within consents will reference the 2001-2004 benchmark years. Properties that are currently above these levels will be expected to respond rapidly.</p>
How do you know if it's fair if I don't know what my current situation is?	The Regional Council is happy to provide advice on how the rules affect you, please contact them on 0800 884 880. There are also materials available at the meeting that may be useful to establish how/if the rules affect individuals.
Why haven't we been communicated to?	There was a public notification of the rules in September last year and a substantial number of submissions were received. The Regional Council has been working on implementing the recommendations of those submissions and feedback is welcome at any time to the Regional Council.
How long can we expect to wait until we speak to a Land Use Advisor?	Regional Council Land Management Officers are ready to talk to anyone now about how the rules will affect them. Please contact them on 0800 884 880. To speak to a Land Use Advisor there is a process that must be followed through the Advice & Support service.
This grand parenting thing - Is it fair to reward the polluters?	The water quality solution for Lake Rotorua is based on everyone doing their bit. The rules are being developed based on a set of principles that balance a number of different viewpoints about how nitrogen should be managed.
I have heard that some of the big dairy farms are going to be bought up by Lakes council and the towns sewage is going to be put on them - is this true ! and if it is why are we having to do less on our land and have our land values reduced to let it happen. Who's farm are they looking at "is it next door to me?" Is that why our Lakes Council think this is a good idea too?	The Lakes Council are looking at alternative options to the Whakarewarewa Forest Disposal as they have an agreement with the landowners to vacate the forest by 2019. Please contact Rotorua Lakes Council for more information on this or how to get involved.
I know of a beautiful farm that will be having no impact of nitrogen into the lake and is a wonderful asset for our catchment. That farm has been basically valued as worthless with its allocation of nitrogen yet that is the sort of farm these rules should be encouraging. These rules and the process to create them has nothing to do with the health of our lake.	The purpose of these rules is to provide part of a sustainable water quality solution for Lake Rotorua, removing the need for alum dosing. The solution is based on everyone doing their bit.

<p>My benchmark was 26 that is now 76 under the latest overseer - How do i know if the range for my sector is enough and what does that mean for all the original calculations behind these rules?</p>	<p>The sector range changes along with your benchmark, when Overseer versions change. Your proportional contribution to the solution won't change though.</p>
<p>I realise this is not a Council meeting, however, we understand that Council pays for a liaison for the Farmers Collective- mostly dairy, can we get some money as well to act as a liaison to the Council and choose our own advisor for OUR voices to be heard?</p>	<p>Council is very happy to consider proposals to fund groups in a similar way to the Collective. To be eligible there must be a decision making structure and terms of reference that Council can view.</p>
<p>The use of alum in our lake locks up phosphorus reducing the opportunity for algae to grow in the lake. The nitrated water flows out of the lake into other catchments. Is BOPRC going to dose the estuaries and river mouths with alum to prevent the formation of phosphate /nitrate dead zones in these downstream locations</p>	<p>Estuaries and river mouths have different dynamics to lakes. The Regional Council is not considering alum dosing in any other location, other than those it does already, Lake Rotorua and Lake Rotoehu.</p>
<p>Thinking more broadly about our lakes water quality - it is everyone's problem. How can all the different sectors (e.g. Consumers, businesses, urban dwellers, tourist industry, rural land owners, conservation, educators, etc.) come together for integrated solutions? Who can facilitate this? *Can our policy planners and authorities think differently to accommodate community driven input early in their processes instead of delivering a politically prepared plan for community to comment on?</p>	<p>The Regional Council has been working with Lake Rotorua Stakeholder Advisory Group (StAG) for nearly three years to establish a sustainable water quality solution for Lake Rotorua. StAG has worked to inform Council decisions on the solution for Lake Rotorua, including the Integrated Framework approach (Rules, Gorse and Incentives), which spreads the cost of the solution between the ratepayer, taxpayer and landowners. StAG has also played a critical role in informing the content of the new rules and how they will work. Council has also included additional consultation and notification processes (above legal requirements) to make sure it gets the rules right. In addition the Regional Council has made a significant investment in water quality science for the lakes to underpin the rules.</p>
<p>If I am going to be affected, why wasn't I consulted and received a notice saying that I wasn't going to be affected?</p>	<p>Everyone property affected by the rules should have been notified then. The Regional Council has been working on implementing the recommendations of those submissions and a further public submissions round will be called for soon, again notifying every property affected by the rules. There was a public notification of the rules in September last year and a substantial number of submissions were received.</p>
<p>If I don't have to apply for a resource consent until 2022 and i don't know what my current activity is leaching how do I know if this is fair? The amount of Nitrogen being allocated is not enough now so there will be no more to allocate when i get to find out. Then it will be too late</p>	<p>Everyone is welcome to seek advice from the Regional Council on how the rules affect them and sign up to the Advice and Support Service now. Please phone the Regional Council on 0800 884 880.</p>